Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—It was agreed in this Assembly both by Hindus and Mahomedans to help the prevention of slaughter of these animals.

Messrs. Vema Reddi, Nagarajaiya and others—So long as work can be extracted from them, our Hindu friends keep them. When the animals become useless, they themselves sell them to the slaughterhouse for what little price they can get. Cattle are the mainstay of our State, which is mainly composed of agriculturists. Without cows and their milk, we cannot possibly get on. It is painful taking animal life. The practice must be stopped.

Dewan.—Do you include, sheep and goats, etc.?

Members.—No.

Mr. C. Rasul Khan.—I oppose full prohibition. Though we are expected to taste beef once a year at least, we, in consideration of the feelings of Hindus, agreed last year not to slaughter cattle. Even now, we stick to the proposal, if our Hindu brethren agree not to play music before our Mosques.

Mr. Suryanarayana Chetty.—Hindu Law does not permit the killing of cattle. Every one is aware of the usefulness of cattle. It is a great sin on the part of the people of this country to allow cattle to be slaughtered in the way it is being done. Some legislation is very necessary to prevent the slaughter of cattle.

Dewan.—This is a matter more for the people than the Government and there would be no need for legislation if all the people co-operate and come to an understanding. It bears a religious aspect. The matter will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 42.

Amendment of the Municipal Regulation.

Mr. G. S. Murigappa Gubbi Taluk.

Mr. G. S. Murigappa.—Much difficulty is experienced in collecting taxes on vacant sites in Municipalities. Some of the owners of such sites live out of villages for years and their whereabouts are not known. Under such circumstances it is not possible to collect taxes, unless recourse to Civil Courts is taken. Hence, the Municipal Regulation may be amended so as to enable the Municipalities to sell the site on which the arrears have accrued.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar.—I strongly support this.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao.—We have been repeatedly representing to Government for the formation of a Local Self-Government Conference. Some such resolution was placed before the Legislative Council also. If our request for a Conference of the kind is sanctioned, all such minor subjects may be discussed there, and some conclusion arrived at.

Mr. B. Kesavaiya.—This is the same as subject No. 91 against my name.

In some instances, the owners of sites have lived outside the town for more than 20 years and as the whereabouts of these persons were not known, it was neither possible to collect taxes nor go to the Civil Courts. Under such circumstances, the Municipality may be empowered to deal with such cases.

Dewan.—The sites will have to be resumed first.

Messrs. Syed Khaja Peeran and Rasul Khan.—This was discussed in previous years and it was ordered that such sites should not be sold by the Municipality but the Municipality should try its best to collect the taxes in any other way possible. If a *Jamabandi* is held once in two years or so, it would not be very difficult to find out the owners of such sites and to collect the outstanding taxes. If the present request to amend the Municipal Regulation is sanctioned, many poor people will be put to a lot of trouble. The well-to-do and influential people of the town will try and acquire all such sites and oust the poor altogether from such places. It is very undesirable to change the present system.

Mr. Ananthaiya.—Such an amendment of the Municipal Regulation seems to be very necessary not only in the interests of the Municipal income but also from the sanitary point of view. The owners of sites do not live in those towns and the growth of vegetation in those areas (Shimoga, for example) is a great nuisance. This is responsible for the insanitary condition of most of our mofussil towns, and entails cost to the Municipality in engaging a conservancy establishment.

Mr. Suryanarayana Chetty.—Most of the workers in the Municipality are honorary workers, who experience a lot of inconvenience to proceed against such defaulters in Civil Courts. Nobody takes the trouble of going through a suit and collecting evidence. Dues will have to be written off. I think it is desirable to amend the Regulation.

Dewan.—Sites are to be resumed before action can be taken against the defaulters. A Bill towards that end is in progress. This may be brought before the Conference, and it is noted for consideration.

SUBJECT NO. 43.

Repeal of the Press Regulation.

[1]Messrs. A. Ananthaiya, Shimoga Taluk; A. Shamanna, Shimoga Municipality; C. Subba Rao and P. Venkappaiya, Shimoga District Board; and Hosakoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk.

Mr. Hosakoppa Krishna Rao.—Many a time, the subject of the repeal of the Press Act has been brought up before this Assembly with the prayer for the press law being repealed. For the existence of an independent press, the repeal of the Act is very necessary. In the Address of the Dewan, an amendment of the hard provisions of the Act is indicated. The Act may be repealed.